



# AIDS Community Resources

A Multicultural AIDS Service Agency

*Celebrating 23 Years of a Community Responding to AIDS*

SERVING CAYUGA, HERKIMER, JEFFERSON, LEWIS, MADISON, ONEIDA, ONONDAGA, OSWEGO, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTIES



June 2006

# Viewpoint

by Michael Crinnin

*June 3, 2006 – 25th Anniversary*

Serious anniversary, this 25 years of the first reported case of AIDS... Who would have thought...? Not I. Too clearly the memories of that report come to mind, followed by the discussions with friends, then the news that someone I knew 'had' this new disease that only struck gay men. Soon the deaths followed, like a flood: if unknown to you, known by someone you knew... And finally the 'very close to home' losses: my parents at my friend's funerals...? The world seemed upside down ... I guess it was.

Regardless, I never in my wildest dreams foresaw a disease that would be raging globally 25 years later – never. Didn't we have some of the best health researchers in the world? Weren't we, as a nation, quick to jump on any emerging health threat? Hadn't we always been a model to the rest of the world in public health responsiveness? Wouldn't America lead the way? Yes. No. Yes. No.

25 years ago there was no national 'call to arms' against this as yet unnamed disease. There was absolutely no leadership from the federal government. President Reagan didn't mention the word AIDS publicly for seven years despite the growing number of deaths. His then Surgeon General, Margaret Heckler, made the point that no extra funding was needed and that AIDS would all probably be over in two years anyways. Health researchers at the CDC couldn't even get money for a microscope much less an infusion of research funds to address what they saw as a burgeoning national health emergency... The history of the first few years of this disease and our government's failure to respond are a national disgrace that no amount of 21st century rhetoric and

dollars to Africa will ever erase.

AIDS, as it came to be known, was introduced to the American consciousness as, 'all about white gay men' ... and the dramatic loss of so many gay men was seen as 'collateral damage': wrong place at the wrong time... "Their fault: God's punishment for a sinful lifestyle". So televangelist after televangelist loudly proclaimed to their massive audiences. I do not exaggerate. Their message, besides the obvious bigotry and positing of hateful behavior at the feet of the Almighty, also guaranteed that many of those listening became infected with a deadly virus. Their reasoning: "Well that ain't me! I'm not white and I'm not male and I'm not gay". The righteous happily washed their hands of the matter as hundreds and then thousands, then tens of thousands became infected and died.

The demonized gay community was left to its own devices to respond to this unknown and terrifying predator. The response was unparalleled, on two fronts: gay men and women 'came out of the closet' in droves, to provide exceptional care for those dying, and a 'take no prisoners' political advocacy emerged that got results – fast!

The best of humanity emerged as those dying were cared for, day and night, by gay friends and partners, while, ACT UP and affiliated groups led massive marches against government failure to take action, literally leading to an overhaul as to how drug therapies, across the board, were developed and brought to market. Has a lot changed in 25 years? No question. Effective treatments have snatched countless from death's door and kept as many from ever suffering the devastating opportunistic diseases

*Continued on page 3*

## **AIDS COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

is a not-for-profit, community-based organization, supported by both public and private funds, bringing information and education, direct services, referrals, and advocacy to everyone in our nine-county region who needs help with HIV/AIDS

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**Newsletter Editor:**  
Jean Kessner

# UPS SUPPORTS ACR

UPS has supported AIDS Community Resources for years. Their team always participates in the AIDS Walk/Run. Last summer UPS went above and beyond the call of duty – and we loved it! - 18 employees and retirees came to the ACR office and put in enough volunteer hours to qualify for a \$5000 grant from the UPS Foundation. The Foundation focuses on literacy, hunger and volunteerism.

UPS Employee Relations Manager, Lola Delans, said, "It is a wonderful opportunity to give back to the communities that we work and live in." The UPS Foundation awarded the \$5000 grant based on the large number of volunteer hours UPS employees invested in AIDS Community Resources.



*AIDS Community Resources Executive Director, Michael Crinnin, accepts a UPS Foundation check for \$5000 from Lola Delans, UPS Employee Relations Manager.*

# 25 years of AIDS



## Continued from Cover

that brought down so many. Safer sex messages, as well as condom discussion and use are far more normative (still can't advertise condoms on TV though... What's that about?!) People know the facts about AIDS, and have since another Surgeon General, C. Everett Koop, had these facts mailed to every American household back in 1988!

Not that facts have ever held a lot of sway in this epidemic - not 25 years ago and not today. Despite the advances in prevention and treatments, AIDS remains in most of the world, a disease of secrets and lies, of shame and blame, of stigma and discrimination - vastly underreported in China, the former Soviet Union and many SE Asian countries, for all the aforementioned reasons... People who are HIV infected rarely share their diagnosis... They know beliefs and biases trump knowledge just about every time. There's a long way to go.

Enter Bill and Melinda Gates - with Warren Buffet now close at their heels: fabulously wealthy individuals taking up the challenge to put their

fortunes into treating and curing this plague: billions for health vs. billions for invasions. There's a concept - a national call to arms at last! Non-elected courage and leadership where you might least expect it... You have to love it!

Courage and leadership, where it was least expected, have always characterized this disease. I celebrate the 25 years of the courageous (and often outrageous!) who fought and died in the trenches - and all those who loved and cared for them. I celebrate all those who courageously (and sometime outrageously) work hard to live productively with this wily and powerful virus. I celebrate the fabulously wealthy and the not-so-fabulously wealthy who take up the banner - determined to hold it high until this battle is over

Michael H.

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*In the photograph below, AIDS Community Resources' employees and volunteers hold a 30-foot banner with milestones from 25 years of AIDS. Carrie Large, Community Relations Associate at AIDS Community Resources, created the banner. (Left to right) Lori Sherry, Tabitha Towles, Faith Long, Mary Doody, Tammy Michel, Jo Kennedy, Kim Caffrey, Rick Priebe, Katie Littlejohn, Noemi DeLaCruz, Anna Anoufrieva, Sonia Bonilla, Joe Jenkins, Alina Ibarra, Martha Rodriguez, Karen Loftin, Leean Sack, Richard Larche, Dan Ernest, Kevin Crosby, Casey Cleary-Hammarstedt, Heidi Venero, Donna Baniewicz, Bob Forbes, Michael Francis, Gary Russell.*



# INTERNATIONAL CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL MESSAGE

*Rick Priebe, Director of Support Services at AIDS Community Resources, spoke at the event May 21, 2006 at Clinton Square in Syracuse.*

My first personal experience with AIDS came with the death of a close family friend more than 20 years ago. Mark had gone to California to continue his career in the fashion industry. Though I had suspected he was HIV+ when he moved there two years before, none of us who knew him had any idea that he was sick until his obituary appeared in the newspaper, announcing his death at 31 "after a brief illness."

In the weeks after his death, I began to hear snippets of what had happened. How his family had gone to California to bring him home when his friends could no longer care for him. How embarrassed they were that he was dying of AIDS. How they had kept his illness and the fact that he was back home a secret from those of us who knew him.

I remember being angry and frustrated at the time – that such a devastating illness could be so resistant to modern medical treatment, that a loving family was so embarrassed that they felt they had to hide the truth, and that I felt so powerless. I swore that I would find a way to help in the fight against HIV.

Since then, like many of you, I've experienced too many losses – Peter, who learned that he was HIV+ on the day his partner died of AIDS; Ben; Jeff; my college buddy Ed, who I'd known since we met while working in the anti-war movement during the 60's and who died three months before the introduction of the first antiretroviral medications; Melissa; John ... My list is too long, and I know that there are many of you who have lost even more friends and family than I have, friends and family whose memory you cherish.

When I retired from civil service in 2004, I looked to find a way to make good on that promise that I'd made 20 years before, a promise that I'd repeated several times since then – that I would find a way to continue the struggle that my friends had lost, to do what I could to make sure that people



*The weather was freezing, the wind was brisk, but Michael DeSalvo of Friends of Dorothy, and Dan DeBrucker and Josh Briscoe, Case Managers at AIDS Community Resources stayed to remember.*

with HIV and AIDS didn't have to live ... or die ... in shame and isolation, to honor and celebrate the lives of those who've died by committing myself to this cause in their memory. While I'd contributed money during those years, I wanted a more personal involvement – I wanted to contribute my skills, experience and effort directly.

After 34 years in government and education, I have a new career; one that I see as a tribute to those I've lost in the last 20 years. I go to work at AIDS Community Resources every day for them ... and for the people among us who live with this disease today.

The message tonight is that we are called to do more than just remember and mourn the friends and family

we've lost. We're called to commit our time and energy as well. Be a buddy to someone who struggles with the challenges of everyday life, help raise money to support those in need, lobby your elected officials to make sure that the fragile and inadequate network of services that we

have isn't cut back during the debate about competing national interests.

Do something ... and then when you do, remember who you're doing it for.

*"I remember being angry and frustrated at the time – that such a devastating illness could be so resistant to modern medical treatment, that a loving family was so embarrassed that they felt they had to hide the truth, and that I felt so powerless. I swore that I would find a way to help in the fight against HIV."*

*~ Rick Priebe*

# ED SKELLAN, VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE

The Rotary Club of Syracuse has awarded long-time AIDS Community Resources volunteer Ed Skellan its "Service Above Self" community service award. ACR Volunteer Coordinator Mary Doody made the nomination:

It is with great pride and gratitude that I nominate Ed Skellan. He has been a volunteer for AIDS Community Resources since December 1993.

There are very few people with his dedication and devotion. He is in our office so often he routinely gets mistaken for an ACR employee by new staff. He goes above and beyond the expectation of a volunteer. He is a man of few words and many jokes.

He has eased our lives at ACR over the years in so many significant ways. The unfortunate paradox is that, unfortunately, many of us take him for granted. We can always count on Ed to follow through.

At the top of the long list outlining Ed's volunteer career is providing hospital visits for people living with HIV/AIDS, delivering holiday gifts and food to families living with HIV/AIDS, assisted clients by moving them from substandard living situations to something better, he completed home repairs for persons living with HIV/AIDS



*Drumlins, May 19, 2006, Ed Skellan, middle, received the Rotary "Service Above Self" award. He's flanked by ACR Executive Director Michael Crinnin and Mary Doody.*

when they were unable to do for themselves either physically or financially, and he made the AIDS Community Resources Pantry run smoothly for years by picking up orders of personal care and household cleaning supplies and faithfully delivering them to the main office.

Ed has distributed and monitored Safer Sex materials in the gay bars on a monthly basis. In the process he supported and

mentored young men struggling with sexual orientation and alcohol, and directed them to the supports ACR had to offer.



*Ed's amazing carpentry wizardry in the Safer Community Youth Group Center.*



*Ed with fellow Special Events Committee Member Kathleen Westers at the AIDS Hike for Life April 30, 2006 at Hamilton College. Ed has been on the Special Events Committee since the beginning.*



*Ed at the North Country's First Frost AIDS Walk (not his trophy).*

# IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT...



*Cherie Smith, a senior from Canastota High School, president of the Teen AIDS Task Force threw out the first pitch. She's shown here with SkyChiefs' infielder Danny Solano.*

*Special thanks to the Old Navy associates and friends (R) who helped at the game: Janet Baum, Josh McIlvain, Nicolle Annunziata, Todd Ciarpelli, Kim Rieppel, Jennifer Kostine, Meghan Gorman*



...Bad for a ball game...but a good start for what we hope will be a long association between the Syracuse SkyChiefs and AIDS Community Resources. May 26th was the first ever AIDS Awareness Night at Alliance Bank Stadium. The game was completed early, but let's hear it for the SkyChiefs who walloped the Norfolk Tides 17 - 3 in five innings. AND...let's make AIDS Awareness night an annual observance and hope for better weather.

## MOHAWK VALLEY PRIDE



**R**ichard Larche (left) and Heidi Venero of AIDS Community Resources conduct outreach at Mohawk Valley Pride on Saturday June 3rd in Utica at City Hall/Hanna Park. The day was rainy and cold, but more than 100 people shared in the celebration with a parade along Genesee Street and a festival with entertainers and vendors. The MV Pride Festival had been on hiatus for the past few years and returned in 2006 with the theme "Queers through the years".

# THE PRIDE OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

*To all friends and supporters:*

I want to THANK YOU so much for coming out to the CNY Pride Parade. Thanks for toughing it out and marching in the wet cold mist. It was great to have employees' families involved with us, showing continuing support for equality. We had many peers there also helping out in the parade and at our booth.

Thanks especially to Carrie Large for all her hard work making the 25-year banner. Thanks to 25 people showing up wearing the red 25-year AIDS T-shirts, winning 1st place in the CNY PRIDE PARADE.

Your support to the LGBT community and me personally is part of why I work so hard for our agency and the gay community in the fight against AIDS. Thanks again for making ACR visible in the fight against HIV/AIDS in our community.

~ Bob Forbes  
HIV Educator  
GRADS Coordinator



*The competition.*



*The Trophy.*



*ACR's Hope Lowe and volunteer Angela.*



*ACR's LGBTQ Youth Groups.*



*The Syracuse Peace Council's parade entry.*



*The Rainbow Flag raised over Syracuse City Hall.*



*4-year-old Gabriella Vazquez with her mother, ACR Case Manager Miriam. Next to Miriam is ACR's Cindy Adams, on her left Hope Lowe.*



*ACR's Banner Wins First Place!*



*On the day of the event total funds raised was estimated at \$128,579. The Special Events Committee (holding the numbers) had set a goal of \$100,000 and was overwhelmed by the result. By June 13th, the amount had risen to \$139,000, with more coming in daily.*

The atmosphere was electric as the biggest ever crowd created a traffic jam trying to get into Beaver Lake Nature Center Sunday, June 4th. It had rained all weekend and the skies were cloudy, but nothing dampened the spirits of the thousand walkers and runners who, raised more than \$139,000 to support AIDS Community Resources in the 14th annual AIDS Walk/Run, presented by Power Federal Credit Union. Last year, the AIDS Walk/Run raised \$83,000. This year's \$139,000 preliminary total represents a 67% increase in giving, an impressive effort in a momentous year in the fight to stop HIV/AIDS.

"Clearly the 25th anniversary of the first reported cases of AIDS was a sobering reminder that this disease persists, and the number of cases continues to grow," says AIDS Community Resources Executive Director Michael Crinnin. The money helps fund AIDS Community Resources' Adolescent Prevention and Street Outreach programs. The only way to stop AIDS is to prevent its spread. There is no cure.

The Centers for Disease

***Thank you Central New York!!!!***

Control first recognized AIDS as a disease on June 5, 1981. This year marks the 25th anniversary of a disease that in 1981 had 422 cases and now has more than 40 million active cases worldwide. Since the outbreak began, New York has reported 166,537 HIV/AIDS cases, more than any other state. Upstate alone has had 32,247 cases. AIDS is New York's #2 killer of adults 35 to 44 years old.

Corporate sponsors helped immensely in the 67% increase in giving. AIDS Community Resources sincerely thanks our title sponsor, Power Federal Credit Union, and other sponsors: Bristol-Myers Squibb, Time Warner Cable, Starbucks, Wal-Mart Foundation, Panera Bread, National Grid, The Tunic, Boehringer & Ingelheim, Constellation Energy, Kinney Drugs Foundation, Syracuse Home and UPS Foundation.

*100% of funds raised in the AIDS Walk/Run stay in Central New York.*

# Unbel

14th An  
100% of funds 1



*And they're of*



*Special Events Committee Member Pat Campbell was 2nd highest individual fundraiser.*



*First finisher Cory Greczyn.*



*Shannon, Marty, and Deaf Geoff from Hot 107.9.*



*Joy and son Munya.*



*Solvay Bearcats TATF.*

*East Syracuse Minoa was second hi*



# Believable Generosity

Annual AIDS Walk/Run Sets Fundraising Record!!!  
 Raised in the AIDS Walk/Run stay in Central New York.



*Wilpover, Top Fundraising team. At center in white shirt is Bill Louer, top overall fundraiser.*



*Special Events Committee members were so overwhelmed they didn't know whether to laugh or cry.*



*Vice Chair of ACR's Board Laura Murgia, Marian Crinnin, and Michael Crinnin.*



*\$500 Club Member Sheila Swagler adjusting her crown.*



*Members of Auburn High School's Teen AIDS Task Force (TATF) had the biggest team (32 members) and were voted the most creative team.*



*Chittenango was Top Teen AIDS Task Force fundraiser.*



*Team Power.*



*Sue Smith, Richard Smith, Rosette Schurman, members of The Steiner Street Group, walking in memory of Bruce Kurtz. The team raised \$562. Sue is ACR's Roger Smith's wife, Richard is his brother. Rosette is a family friend from Barneveld, New York*

*Best TATF fundraiser.*

*Alexandra Rundgren, three years old, with her aunt Michelle Bloom, at the 14th Annual AIDS Walk/Run, Sunday June 5, 2006.*



*Team MAC Cosmetics was 2nd highest fundraising team.*

**Check out more photos at [www.aidswalkcny.com](http://www.aidswalkcny.com)**

# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CORPORATE AND BUSINESS SPONSORS.

*Without your support, the AIDS Walk/Run would not happen.*

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## NORTH COUNTRY COMMUNITIES SUPPORT ACR

The \$500 was burning a hole in her pocket. As the Home Town Coordinator for Wal-Mart in Watertown, JoAnne Bonventre decides which agencies receive Wal-Mart grants. She wanted to put the money in hands that would provide the most benefit for her community. She started with the A's in a book listing North Country nonprofits and soon settled on AIDS Community Resources. "It all came back to me about how ACR helped my friend at such a desperate time in her life. She was very sick and had to get to Syracuse for treatments. ACR provided transportation, and helped her in more ways than I can say."

JoAnne's friend lives in Syracuse now and is doing well, thanks in no small part to continuing support from AIDS Community Resources. "It feels good to give back

to an agency that gives so much to people others ignore. Plus, I love the fact that 100% of the money will be used in the North Country," JoAnne Bonventre said.



*JoAnne Bonventre with ACR's Carrie Large.*

# GETTING CONNECTED... WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS...

**A**IDS Community Resources is a sprawling operation, covering nine counties with six offices, 70 employees, and hundreds of clients. None of our satellite office computers can communicate with each other, nor with computers at the home office in Syracuse, except by e-mail. This creates a number of incredible time-and-resource wasting scenarios. For instance, a case manager in Watertown has to write case notes about each client. The AIDS Institute requires that those case notes be on in the database at the Syracuse office. The Watertown case manager faxes the notes to Syracuse,

where another employee inputs the information. That process is repeated with every report on every case by every case manager at every satellite office: Auburn, Canton, Oswego, Utica, and Watertown.

Enter the Central New York Democratic Delegation to the State Assembly. Together Assembly members Bill Magnarelli, Joan Christensen and RoAnn DeStito worked together to acquire \$20,000 to interface ACR's far-flung computers.

"This member item grant from the three of us helps you be more efficient, and saving money is good," Bill Magnarelli said.

"Member items" is the term Assembly members use for what reporters and others call "pork" – money directed to specific projects.

Thanks to Ms Christensen, Ms DeStito and Mr. Magnarelli for underwriting this great step forward. Being "wired" will allow ACR to spend more time on the mission and less time on the journey.



*Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli and ACR Executive Director Michael Crinnin discussing ACR's computer interface plans. The two have known each other since attending St. John the Baptist High School in Syracuse.*



*Assemblywoman Joan K. Christensen said, "Often, AIDS Community Resources is the only source of services in many areas, and it is a lifeline to many people. This grant will help to streamline communications and is a cost effective way to improve service delivery."*



*Assemblywoman RoAnn M. Destito of Rome said, "By taking this action, we are providing the health care consumers of our community, who visit the Utica and other satellite offices, with the best possible services that AIDS Community Resources has to offer."*

Joseph Jenkins II is a Case Management Technician, a new position at ACR that allows our consumers to experience the TEAM approach to case management. "I hope to empower consumers and educate the public to end the stigma surrounded by infected persons." He graduated from Cayuga Community College with Dual Degrees, A.A.S. Criminal Justice, and A.A. Liberal Arts Humanities while interning at Oswego County District Attorney's Office service as D.A. Assistant. Joseph's also a licensed realtor.



Kevin Crosby started his career at AIDS Community Resources as a volunteer. He's now the administrative assistant to the Support Services Department. "It's a wonderful feeling to know that I am part of a team that is making a real difference in individual's lives and the communities we live in. The people who work here are amazing - warm, genuine, and deeply dedicated individuals who, as an added bonus, are fun to be around."



## WELCOME...NEW EMPLOYEES

Christopher White is a Prevention Specialist with ACR's Safety First outreach team. "I love my work. Five years of previous dedication to AIDS services, and I know that my heart belongs to the challenges of fighting this pandemic in America, alongside passionate people who dedicate their lives to the cause." Christopher worked as an educator and Case Manager at AIDS Community Services of Western New York before coming to ACR.



Bryony Grealish is a Case Manager. She graduated from Syracuse University's School of Social Work. "I lost a brother to AIDS in October 2000 and never knew if he received any help before he died. So I think about my brother when I come to work each day." Before coming to AIDS Community resources, Bryony worked at Liberty Resources' Onondaga Day habilitation program for adults who are mentally retarded and developmentally delayed.



Gary Russell is AIDS Community Resources' Computer Systems Manager. He most recently worked as a contractor at numerous sites: New Process Gear, Syracuse University and Constellation Nuclear Power. Before that he worked the Network Operations Center for AppliedTheory. He came to ACR because; "Human Services are about the mission, not about whether you made the profits for the quarter. I have lost some high school friends to AIDS."



## PICCOLO'S RESTAURANT LITTLE FALLS, NEW YORK, MONDAY, MAY 22:

Leslie Taylor, David Taylor, Richard Vogt, and Owen Levy check the guest list at the private party held as a benefit for AIDS Community Resources. Richard Taylor and Vogt operate the Stone Mill Antiques and Collectibles of Little Falls. Levy is a Broadway publicist, a member of the GLBT group, living in Fort Plain and New York City. Sixty people attended the event.



# ALONG FOR “THE RIDE”

Syracuse native Jordan “Tristin” Borland slid into a deep depression after learning he was HIV positive. Kicked out of the New York City apartment he shared with a friend, he found lodging through a city program for people with advanced HIV; then kept to his bed for the next three years. Last February Tristin had an epiphany. “I was sitting here feeling sorry for myself, flipping through the channels, and saw this documentary on an AIDS ride in California. It made me laugh, made me cry, inspired me to get out of bed.” It also inspired him to sign on to the AIDS Community Resources Team for Empire State AIDS Ride Four.

Signing on for the Ride is no small commitment – physical or financial. The entry fee is \$150, and each rider must raise \$3200. The Ride lasts for a week (during the dog days of August), covers 560 miles (many of them straight uphill) from Niagara Falls to New York City; and riders sleep in tents overnight along the way. Traveling eight or more hours a day, the pace can be grueling.

28-year-old Tristin says he’ll be ready for the challenge. No more sleeping all day, no more smoking, and no more over-eating. He’s walking five miles a day and bought a bicycle in May. “I used to bike a lot, all my life. It’s a way for me to unwind from a hard day. I’m no Lance Armstrong, but I used to ride about ten miles a day on average.”

His next stop was New York City’s Central Park. He started small and added a few laps each day, working on his psyche and strengthening his body. This month he will hook up with other New York City riders and get into some real training. “My main support right now is other riders and friends. I just keep focused on what I am doing and why. I find it helpful to talk to others, to inspire and to be inspired.”

AIDS Community Resources helps team members raise the required \$3200. ACR proofreads solicitation letters, provides mailing labels, and helps plan fundraising events, if the rider wishes. ACR’s Carrie Large says, “After they start raising money they see how easy it can be – especially if their employer matches what they raise.” Large tells the story of first-time rider Stacey Portzline, who works for Starbucks.

Her company will pay her \$1000 if she performs 100 hours of volunteer work (\$10 per hour), and Starbucks also matches whatever money she raises, up to a thousand dollars. With four months to go, Stacey had raised \$3200, and is trying for more.

Tristin Borland has received \$1,245 since mid-April, and he has promises of hundreds more from his friends. Signing up for the Empire State AIDS Ride has taken his mind off his own troubles. “Doing this ride has given me a goal, something to work for,” he says. “I spend every hour of every day thinking about this ride, sending out emails and training. I have been dead for the last three years. I want my life back. I want to live again.”

Tristin takes heavy-duty medications every day. Though HIV/AIDS drugs take their toll, many HIV positive people live active, athletic lives in spite of the medication. They do long-distance biking and some take part in AIDS Rides around the country.

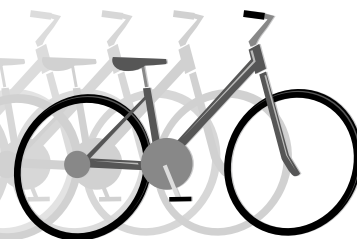
“I used to think no one ever gets sick from this, no one dies from AIDS anymore. When I became sick, I became depressed and I felt completely alone in the world.”

Empire State AIDS Ride Four is Tristin’s ticket back to a full life. He says the only way to end AIDS is to help one person at a time. This August he’s helping himself and AIDS Community Resources.



*Tristin Borland is the 14th bicyclist to sign up to represent AIDS Community Resources in the Empire State AIDS Ride the third week in August. Last year a team of seven riders and two volunteers traveled 560 miles from Niagara Falls to New York City, raising more than \$40,000 for ACR. With double the riders, perhaps double the proceeds?*

**For more information about Empire State AIDS Ride 4, or to donate, call Carrie Large at (800) 475-2430 or online at [empirestateaidsride.org](http://empirestateaidsride.org).**





Jean Kessner

In our April Newsletter I lamented about my difficulties in trying to contact a person with HIV/AIDS (I was writing a human-interest story, but communication was hard because the person had neither email nor telephone). Shortly after the newsletter went out, Todd (not his real name) contacted me and volunteered to share his story. "Because it is atypical," he said.

Todd is a heterosexual male who says he is neither an IV drug user, nor has he ever had a homosexual encounter. His doctor believes he became HIV positive as a young adult. Todd had no clue he was infected when he married and started a family. Eventually HIV took its toll; he says he was misdiagnosed and nearly lost his life, before the true cause of his illness was found. Todd wants to share his story because he believes there's a huge population at risk of HIV infection, and they haven't got a clue.

## CNY MAN INFECTED AND UNAWARE

"I guess I would have done a couple of things differently if I had it all to do over again! I am not so naive as to tell people to abstain from sex; I guess I would tell both men and women to abstain from oral sex. Maybe I am behind the times, but I know of no protection for a man having oral sex with a woman. I would also tell everyone to WEAR PROTECTION!! I guess that is the biggest thing. I was in my 20's when I picked up this virus if the physician's guess is correct. That means it can happen and is happening in younger people. I wake up every morning, roll out of bed and take my zidovudine and Abacavir Sulfate before I even go to the bathroom. I also take them at night along with efavirenz. I am lucky, there are those of us out there with HIV that take 15 to 20 pills a day, I only take 5 pills a day for the HIV.

Again, if I had to reflect, I would try to tell whoever would listen, WEAR PROTECTION!! And if you don't have protection for what you plan on doing...DON'T DO IT!! I know this sounds clichéd, but, you are not just sleeping with one person, you are sleeping with everybody your partner has slept with. I believe I picked up this virus from a "Nice Middle-Class" woman; she had a pretty good job, dressed well, and was a lot like me financially. She wasn't poor and she wasn't an IV drug user. You sleep with everybody your partner sleeps with... If anyone listens let it be that!! Wear protection...and BE SAFE ALWAYS!"

one week that will change your life

**EMPIRE STATE AIDS RIDE**

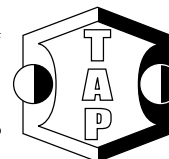
August 13-19, 2006  
7 Days • 560 Miles  
Niagara Falls to NYC

ARCS AIDS RIDE

[www.empirestateaidsride.org](http://www.empirestateaidsride.org)

The Treatment Adherence Program of AIDS Community Resources is dedicated to helping individuals overcome barriers which make taking HIV medications difficult. **Personal and Online Support** are available.

EXPERIENCE CYBER-SUPPORT FOR YOURSELF AND CHAT WITH OTHERS ABOUT HOW TREATMENT ADHERENCE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



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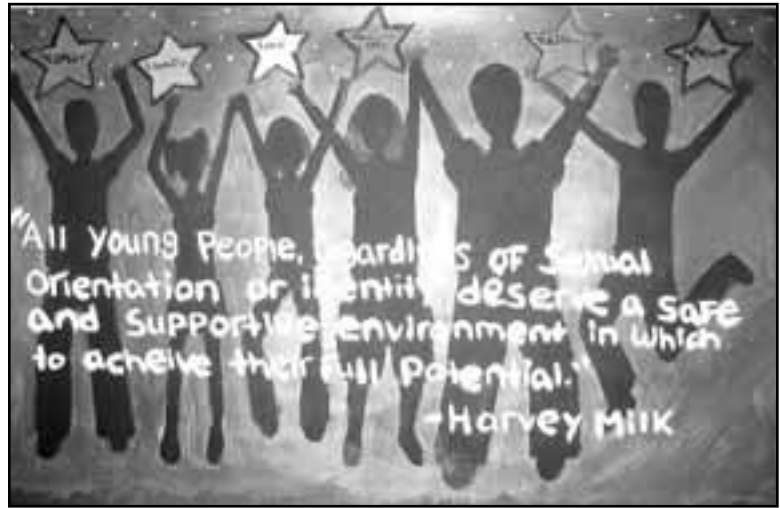
[www.aidscommunityresources.com/acrtreat](http://www.aidscommunityresources.com/acrtreat)

# CREATING, PAINTING SAFER SPACES

The Safer Community LGBTQ Youth Center at AIDS Community Resources leapt from idea to a fait accompli within just a few months. A gift from a generous donor helped secure the space; talents of faithful volunteers reconstructed it; and 25 students, teens and artists applied the finishing brushstrokes. A beautiful mural, illustrating ACR's hope for acceptance and tolerance toward all, graces one wall, with more artwork to follow.

Last February mural designs, created by youth, were submitted from Central New York Gay Straight Alliances and LGBT groups. The sketches explored a variety of topics: invisibility, unity, gender variance and the right to a safe and supportive educational environment. Mark Wright of the Cultural Resources Council, Laura Reeder with Partners for Arts Education and Kate Woodle of Rosamond Gifford Zoo selected the winning design.

The Cultural Resources Council funded the Mural Project, making it possible for professional artist Kate Woodle to lead the enterprise. Through design workshops, sketch selection, paint purchase and application, Kate led the way. As the Rosamond Gifford Zoo artist in residence, Kate's murals transform ordinary spaces into the landscapes of an



*"All young people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity, deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to achieve their full potential." ~ Harvey Milk*

African plain, the lush vegetation of a rainforest, and a rock nest for endangered birds. Social justice issues are critical to Kate, and she was delighted to guide transformation of our ordinary space into the new extraordinary LGBTQ youth center.

Twenty youth from Gay Straight Alliances and Acceptance Coalitions from five high schools: Cato Meridian, Baker, East Syracuse Minoa, Manlius Pebble Hill and Henniger, painted the mural during a recent weekend. The young people enjoyed painting the walls, making new friends, and planning future events at the Youth Center.

The mission of the Safer Community LGBTQ Youth Center and its programming is to provide LGBTQ young people with a safe and supportive environment and reduce the stigma often experienced by LGBTQ youth by empowering the youth and educating the community.

To find out more about the Safer Community Center, contact Elizabeth Payne at (800) 475-2430.



*Student Painters.*



**AIDS Community Resources**  
A Multicultural AIDS Service Agency

627 West Genesee Street  
Syracuse, New York 13204

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**(800) 475-2430**

**-Or-**

**info@aidcommunityresources.com**

**-Or- mail  
in the back  
page of this  
newsletter to:**

**AIDS Community Resources  
627 West Genesee Street  
Syracuse, NY 13204**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**August 13 – 19, 2006**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Empire State AIDS Ride**

Take part in a challenging bicycle ride across 560 miles of back roads from Niagara Falls to New York City. Ride starts 7:00 a.m. Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> in Niagara Falls and ends in Battery Park in Manhattan. [www.empirestateaidsride.org](http://www.empirestateaidsride.org).

**October 15, 2006**

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Annual First Frost AIDS Walk**

Join hundreds of your neighbors and friends in a 5K AIDS Walk through picturesque Thompson Park and Zoo in Watertown. Registration begins at noon.

The walk starts at 1 p.m.

Call Wil or Carrie at (800) 475-2430.

[www.aidswalkny.com](http://www.aidswalkny.com)

### **PEER/VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION**

**UTICA – July 11 - 12:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
July 22 - 8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**SYRACUSE – July 15 - 8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
July 27 - 12:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Please call 475-2430 to sign up.

### **SUPPORT GROUPS**

#### **TREATMENT ADHERENCE**

Contact Kim or Martha at 475-2430.

#### **SYRACUSE YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS:**

**LGBTQ (ages 13-18): Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30**

**Transgender (ages 14-24): 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:00**

**Steppin' Out (ages 19-22): Thursdays, 7:00-9:00**

For location and further information: [lgbtqyouthcenter@aidcommunityresources.com](mailto:lgbtqyouthcenter@aidcommunityresources.com)

#### **UTICA YOUTH GROUP:**

**Sundays from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.**

For locations and further information, contact Mary Doody at (800-475-2430).